



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Dec. 27, 2007

For More Information, Contact:  
Darin Meschke  
State Registrar  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Phone: 701.328.2494  
E-mail: [dmeschke@nd.gov](mailto:dmeschke@nd.gov)

### **New North Dakota Birth Certificate Law Goes Into Effect January 1, 2008**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Starting Jan. 1, 2008, individuals requesting a birth certificate will need to show proof of identity, according to Darin Meschke, state registrar for the North Dakota Department of Health.

The new requirement is based on changes to the state's Century Code passed by the 2007 North Dakota Legislative Assembly. The purpose of the changes is to prevent fraud and identity theft.

According to the new law, a certified copy of a birth certificate can be issued only to the individual named on the birth certificate; a parent named on the birth certificate; or the individual's authorized representative, such as a legal guardian or an adoptive agency. Certified copies also will be released by the order of a court of law. Previously, if an individual's parents were married at the time of his or her birth, anyone could request a copy.

"The 2007 Legislative Assembly recognized the importance of protecting the personal information of North Dakota citizens," Meschke said. "These new restrictions will help to safeguard the information on birth certificates, thereby helping to prevent fraud and identity theft."

When requesting a certified copy of a birth certificate, individuals can establish proof of identity by submitting one of the following:

- A driver's license or photo ID issued by a state government
- A tribal ID card issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- A military ID card issued by the federal government
- A passport or visa issued by the federal government

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200  
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: [health@nd.gov](mailto:health@nd.gov)

*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*

People requesting birth certificates in person from the Department of Health's Division of Vital Records will be asked to show proof of identity. People requesting birth certificates by mail, fax or online will be asked to send or fax photocopies of the IDs.

More information about obtaining birth certificates is available on the Department of Health's website at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov) or by calling 701.328.2360.

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